

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 ICA-11 IO-13 EUR-12 ARA-10 /109 W
 -----091420 040748Z /11

P 040542Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9276
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 3407

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, ET
SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ATTACKS US; INFORMATION REQUESTED
 TO COUNTER PMGSE ACCUSATIONS

SUMMARY. ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED FROM
OAU AND NAM CONFERENCES AUG 2. UPON HIS RETURN
HE CHARGED THAT THE US MAINTAINS 90 TO 110,000
YANKEE IMPERIALISTS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN AND
THAT US WEAPONS FURNISHED TO SAUDI ARABIA WERE DIRECTED A
AGAINST ETHIOPIA. WE NOTE THAT BEYOND
THE PRESENT POLEMICS, ETHIOPIANS IN GENERAL ARE
CONCERNED FOR ETHIOPIAN SECURITY IN LIGHT OF
US MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH EGYPT AND
SAUDI ARABIA, HISTORICAL ARAB AND MUSLIM ENEMIES
OF ETHIOPIA. THIS CONCERN IS NOT RELATED TO
CURRENT POLITICS. CONSISTENT WITH OUR PAST
PRACTICE, WE REQUEST INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS
TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT. END SUMMARY.

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1. FOREIGN MINISTER, COL. DR. FELEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS,
RETURNED FROM THE OAU AND NAM CONFERENCES AUG 2,
AND PROMPTLY ATTACKED THE US, SOMALIA, SAUDI ARABIA,
EGYPT AND KUWAIT IN AN AIRPORT INTERVIEW.

2. IN THE CONTEXT OF DEFENDING THE CUBAN PRESENCE
IN AFRICA ("30 TO 40,000 CUBANS ASSISTING

AFRICANS") HE SAID, "IN SAUDI ARABIA ITSELF THERE ARE ABOUT 30 TO 40,000 YANKEE IMPERIALISTS. IN IRAN SOME 60 TO 70,000 OF THEM."

3. REFERRING TO THE US SUPPLY OF WEAPONS TO SAUDI ARABIA, DR. FELEKE SAID THAT THESE WEAPONS WERE BEING DELIVERED ON THE GUARANTEE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL. HE THEN SAID, "IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT THESE WEAPONS ARE JUST TO BE USED AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION." DR. FELEKE MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS CONCERNING EGYPT AT THE OAU: "THE UNDERTAKING EGYPT MADE TO THE US THAT SHE WOULD USE THE SUPER-SONIC JET FIGHTERS SHE WOULD SOON RECEIVE FROM THE US ONLY FOR HER MISSIONS IN AFRICA...AND NOT AGAINST ISRAEL...CANNOT BE VIEWED IN ISOLATION ..." BOTH ATTACKS BUILD ON THE REAL, HISTORICAL ETHIOPIAN FEAR OF ARAB AND MUSLIM ENCIRCLEMENT AND AGRESSION AHD HAVE LITTLE IF ANYTHING TO DO WITH 20TH CENTURY OR POST-REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS.

4. SOME OTHER COMMENTS BY DR. FELEKE, WHILE OBJECTIONABLE, DID NOT NAME THE US DIRECTLY. HE SPOKE OF "IMPERIALIST INSPIRED AGRESSIONS", "A VICIOUS AND IMPERIALIST-ORCESTRATED CAMPAIGN AT BELGRADE TO EXPEL CUBA FROM THE NAM", "IMPER-CONFIDENTIAL

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IALIST FORCES WHICH TRY TO DESTABILIZE AFRICAN COUNTRIES", ETC. IN SHORT, DR. FELEKE WAS PERFORMING TYPICALLY FOR HIM AS MORE OF AN ANGRY PROPAGANDIST THAT THE CHIEF OF ETHIOPIAN DIPLOMACY.

5. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, IT HAS BEEN OUR PRACTICE TO IGNORE INDIRECT ATTACKS ON THE US (SUCH AS THOSE NOTED IN PARA 4) BY PMGSE AND PMAC OFFICIALS, AND DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE US WHEN MADE BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL INDIVIDUALS IN THE LOCAL MEDIA. HOWEVER, WHEN PMGSE OR PMAC OFFICIALS HAVE MADE DIRECT FALACIOUS ATTACKS ON THE US BY NAME WE HAVE, IN A LOW-KEY, MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER FASHION BROUGHT THE FACTS AND OUR VIEWPOINT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE PMGSE LEVEL. ETHIOPIAN MOFA OFFICIALS HAVE INDIRECTLY INDICATED TO US THAT THEY EXPECT US TO DO SO TO COUNTER THE PECULIAR ETHIOPIAN CUSTOM OF PUBLICLY ATTACKING THE US FOR ALREADY DOING WHAT THE PMGSE FEARS WE MIGHT CONCEIVABLE DO (ADDIS ABABA 3260, PARA 8). WORKING LEVEL MOFA OFFICIALS USUALLY APPEAR RELIEVED WHEN WE HAVE OFFICIALLY DENIED ALLEGATIONS THEY EITHER KNOW OR HOPE ARE FALSE;

ON OCCASION THEY HAVE EXPRESSED ANXIETY WHEN WE
HAVE BEEN SLOW IN MAKING THE DENIAL.

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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ICA-11 IO-13 EUR-12 ARA-10 /109 W
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P 040541Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 3407

6. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT PROVIDE
US WITH UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON SIZE OF
OFFICIAL US PRESENCES IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN
WITH AUTHORIZATION TO USE IT ALONG LINES DESCRIBED
IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH. FURTHER REQUEST STATEMENT
FOR OUR USE WITH MOFA ON THE US-SAUDI ARMS SUPPLY
RELATIONSHIP.

7. ON THESE TWO REQUESTS, THE SECOND IS THE MORE
INPORTANT SUBSTANTIVELY. DR. FELEKE'S CHOICE OF
FIGURES TO ILLUSTRATE HIS CONTENTION THAT "YANKEE
IMPERIALISTS" WERE OUT IN FORCE WAS A SOPHISTRY.
ON THE OTHER HAND, SEVERAL ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS, NOT
ALL OF WHOM ARE ILL-INTENTIONED TOWARDS THE US,
HAVE EXPRESSED A CONCERN TO US THAT SAUDI ARABIA
POSES A THREAT TO ETHIOPIA. WE REALIZE THAT FROM
JIDDA'S PERSPECTIVE, WHO POSES A THREAT TO WHOM
MAY BE DIFFERENT IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT MARXIST-
LENINIST ORIENTATION OF THE PMGSE, ITS ARMED FORCES
OF APPROXIMATELY 200,000 MEN, THE \$1-2 BILLION OF
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RECENT SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THE PRESENCE
IN ETHIOPIA OF AN ESTIMATED 15,000 PLUS CUBAN,
AND OVER 1000 SOVIET MILITARY. THE GENERAL
ETHIOPIAN PERSPECTIVE OF SAUDI ARABIA IS THAT
OF A FINANCIALLY POWERFUL, FEUDAL, MONARCHIST,
MUSLIM STATE, WITH A LONG HISTORY OF TRYING TO
TURN THE RED SEA INTO AN ARAB LAKE AND OF HISTOR-
ICALLY EITHER DIRECT ATTACKS ON TERRITORY ETHIO-
PIANS CONSIDER THEIRS OR ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA'S
ENEMIES (E.G., SOMALIA) AND ETHIOPIAN SECESSIONIST
MOVEMENTS (ERITREA). TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, WE
WOULD LIKE TO REASSURE THE PMGSE THAT OUR MILITARY
SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT
ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST IT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER ATTACKS US; INFORMATION REQUESTED TO COUNTER PMGSE ACCUSATIONS SUMMARY. ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNED FROM
TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, US, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
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